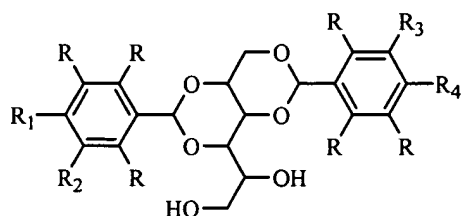


CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

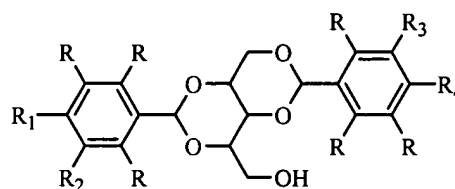
1. A compound of Structure (I) or Structure (II):

(I)



or

(II)



wherein R is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, lower alkyl groups containing 1-4 carbon atoms, lower alkoxy groups, chlorine, and fluorine; R₁, R₂, R₃, and R₄ are independently selected from the group consisting of lower alkyl groups containing 1-4 carbon atoms, lower alkoxy groups, and fluorine; with the proviso that only one of R₁ and R₂ is fluorine, only one of R₃ and R₄ is fluorine, and wherein at least one of R₁, R₂, R₃, and R₄ is a lower alkyl group.

2. The compound of Claim 1 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of bis(4-fluoro-3-methylbenzylidene)sorbitol; bis(3-fluoro-4-methylbenzylidene)-sorbitol; bis(4-fluoro-2,3-dimethylbenzylidene)sorbitol; bis(3-fluoro-2,4-dimethylbenzylidene)sorbitol; bis(3-fluoro-4-methoxy-benzylidene)sorbitol; and bis(2,4-difluoro-3-methylbenzylidene)sorbitol.